CLAIMS

We claim:

        1.   A method for categorizing a medical or a pharmaceutical product

5   comprising the steps of:

           (a) determining an originator indicator for the product;

           (b) determining a patent status indicator for the product;

           (c) determining a source indicator for the product;

           (d) determining a tradename indicator for the product; and

10   (e) categorizing the product as a branded product or a generic product,

using said originator indicator, said patent status indicator, said source indicator, and

said tradename indicator determined in steps (a) – (d).

        2.   The method of claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises categorizing the

product as a product selected from the group consisting of a branded product, a

15   generic product, and an other product, using said originator indicator, said patent

status indicator, said source indicator, and said tradename indicator determined in

steps (a) – (d).

        3.   The method of claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises categorizing a

product as a product selected from the group consisting of a branded product, a

20   generic product, a branded generic product, and an other product, using said originator

indicator, said patent status indicator, said source indicator, and said tradename

indicator determined in steps (a) – (d).

        4.   The method of claim 1,

           wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product

25   selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

           wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product

selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

           wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected

from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other;

30   and

           wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product

selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

    5.   The method of claim 2,

wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

5   wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other; and   ·

10   wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

    6.   The method of claim 3,

wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

'15   wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other; and

20   wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

    7.   The method of claim 1,

wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, non-applicable over

25   the counter, other non-applicable, unknown, and other;

wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, over the counter, and other;

wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected

30   from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, over the counter, and other; and

wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, over the counter, and other.

8.   The method of claim 4, wherein the product is categorized as a branded product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as on-patent or off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename or non-tradename.

9.   The method of claim 4, wherein the product is categorized as a branded product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as on-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename or non-tradename.

10.   The method of claim 4, wherein the product is categorized as a generic product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as multi-source; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as non-tradename.

11.   The method of claim 5, wherein the product is categorized as an other product, if

the originator indicator classifies the product as non-applicable over the counter, other non-applicable, unknown, other, or a non-existing category.

12.   The method of claim 5, wherein the product is categorized as an other

product, if

the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected

from the group consisting of over the counter, other, and a non-existing category.

13.   The method of claim 5, wherein the product is categorized as an other

5   product, if

the source indicator classifies the product as over the counter, other, or

a non-existing category.

14.   The method of claim 5, wherein the product is categorized as an other

product, if

10   the tradename indicator classifies the product as over the counter,

other, or a non-existing category.

15.   The method of claim 6, wherein the product is categorized as a branded

generic product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

15   (ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected

from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename.

16.   The method of claim 6, wherein the product is categorized as a branded

20   generic product,

if the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

if the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

if the source indicator classifies the product as single-source or co-

licensed; and

25   if the tradename indicator classifies the product as non-tradename.

17.   A system for categorizing a medical or a pharmaceutical product

comprising:

(a) an input device for inputting product information;

(b) a processor coupled to the input device, using said product

30   information, for

(i) determining a patent originator indicator for the product;

       (ii)   determining a patent status indicator for the product;

       (iii)   determining a source indicator for the product;

       (iv)   determining a tradename indicator for the product; and

       (v)   categorizing the product as a branded product or a generic

5   product using said originator indicator, said patent status indicator, said source

indicator, and said tradename indicator determined in steps (i) – (iv); and

       (c) a storage device coupled to the processor for storing the originator

indicator, the patent status indicator, the source indicator, and the tradename indicator

for the product.

10   18.   The system of claim 17, wherein step (v) comprises categorizing the

product as a product selected from the group consisting of a branded product, a

generic product, and an other product, using said originator indicator, said patent

status indicator, said source indicator, and said tradename indicator determined in

steps (i) – (iv).

15   19.   The system of claim 17, wherein step (v) comprises categorizing a

product as a product selected from the group consisting of a branded product, a

generic product, a branded generic product, and an other product, using said originator

indicator, said patent status indicator, said source indicator, and said tradename

indicator determined in steps (i) – (iv).

20   20.   The system of claim 17,

        wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product

selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

        wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product

selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

25   wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected

from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other;

and

        wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product

selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

30   21.   The system of claim 18,

        wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product

selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

    wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

    wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other; and

    wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

22.   The system of claim 19,

    wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

    wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

    wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other; and

    wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

23.   The system of claim 17,

    wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, non-applicable over the counter, other non-applicable, unknown, and other;

    wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, over the counter, and other;

    wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, over the counter, and other; and

    wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, over the counter, and other.

24.   The system of claim 20, wherein the processor categorizes the product as a branded product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as on-patent or off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename or non-tradename.

25.   The system of claim 20, wherein the processor categorizes the product as a branded product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as on-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename or non-tradename.

26.   The system of claim 20, wherein the processor categorizes the product as a generic product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as multi-source; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as non-tradename.

27.   The system of claim 21, wherein the processor categorizes the product as an other product, if

the originator indicator classifies the product as non-applicable over the counter, other non-applicable, unknown, other, or a non-existing category.

28.   The system of claim 21, wherein the processor categorizes the product as an other product, if

the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of over the counter, other, and a non-existing category.

29.   The system of claim 21, the processor categorizes the product as an other product, if

the source indicator classifies the product as over the counter, other, or a non-existing category.

30.   The system of claim 21, wherein the processor categorizes the product as an other product, if

the tradename indicator classifies the product as over the counter, other, or a non-existing category.

31.   The system of claim 22, wherein the processor categorizes the product as a branded generic product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename.

32.   The system of claim 22, wherein the processor categorizes the product as a branded generic product,

if the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

if the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

if the source indicator classifies the product as single-source or co-licensed; and

if the tradename indicator classifies the product as non-tradename.

33.   A computer-readable medium for categorizing a medical or a pharmaceutical product, the computer-readable medium having a set of instructions operable to direct a processor to perform the steps of:

(a) determining an originator indicator for the product;

(b) determining a patent status indicator for the product;

(c) determining a source indicator for the product;

(d) determining a tradename indicator for the product; and

(e) categorizing the product as a branded product or a generic product, using said originator indicator, said patent status indicator, said source indicator, and

said tradename indicator determined in steps (a) – (d).

      34.   The computer-readable according to claim 33, wherein step (e) comprises categorizing the product as a product selected from the group consisting of a branded product, a generic product, and an other product, using said originator

5   indicator, said patent status indicator, said source indicator, and said tradename indicator determined in steps (a) – (d).

      35.   The computer-readable according to claim 33, wherein step (e) comprises categorizing a product as a product selected from the group consisting of a branded product, a generic product, a branded generic product, and an other product,

10   using said originator indicator, said patent status indicator, said source indicator, and said tradename indicator determined in steps (a) – (d).

      36.   The computer-readable according to claim 33,

            wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

15   wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

            wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other; and

20   wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

      37.   The computer-readable according to claim 34,

            wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

25   wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

            wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other; and

30   wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

38.   The computer-readable according to claim 35,

wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, and other;

wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product

5   selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, and other;

wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, and other; and

wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product

10   selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, and other.

39.   The computer-readable according to claim 33,

wherein the originator indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of originator, non-originator, non-applicable over the counter, other non-applicable, unknown, and other;

15   wherein the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of on-patent, off-patent, over the counter, and other;

wherein the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single source, multiple source, co-licensed, over the

20   counter, and other; and

wherein the tradename indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of tradename, non-tradename, over the counter, and other.

40.   The computer-readable according to claim 36, wherein the computer-

25   readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as a branded product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as on-patent or off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected

30   from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename or non-tradename.

41.   The computer-readable according to claim 36, wherein the computer-readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as a

5   branded product, if

        (i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

        (ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as on-patent;

        (iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

10   (iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename or non-tradename.

42.   The computer-readable according to claim 36, wherein the computer-readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as a generic product, if

15   (i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

        (ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

        (iii) the source indicator classifies the product as multi-source; and

        (iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as non-tradename.

43.   The computer-readable according to claim 37, wherein the computer-

20   readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as an other product, if

        the originator indicator classifies the product as non-applicable over the counter, other non-applicable, unknown, other, or a non-existing category.

44.   The computer-readable according to claim 37, wherein the computer-

25   readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as an other product, if

        the patent status indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of over the counter, other, and a non-existing category.

45.   The computer-readable according to claim 37, wherein the computer-

30   readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as an other product, if

the source indicator classifies the product as over the counter, other, or a non-existing category.

46.   The computer-readable according to claim 37, wherein the computer-readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as an other product, if

the tradename indicator classifies the product as over the counter, other, or a non-existing category.

47.   The computer-readable according to claim 38, wherein the computer-readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as a branded generic product, if

(i) the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

(ii) the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

(iii) the source indicator classifies the product as a product selected from the group consisting of single-source, multi-source, and co-licensed; and

(iv) the tradename indicator classifies the product as tradename.

48.   The computer-readable according to claim 38, wherein the computer-readable medium is operable to direct the processor to categorize a product as a branded generic product,

if the originator indicator classifies the product as non-originator;

if the patent status indicator classifies the product as off-patent;

if the source indicator classifies the product as single-source or co-licensed; and

if the tradename indicator classifies the product as non-tradename.